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Are Getting Littler

But They're Hearing More as Peeping And Eavesdropping Business Booms, Even in the Federal Government

By Ramon Geremia Washington Post Staff Writer

"JUST THINK of the convenience of this one," said 'the last line of the magazine advertisement.

Above it was a drawing of a beep."

vice," that "weighs only 11/2 ounces!"

and more of the electronic devices designed for military day. use are being made available for civilians. This ingenious (just 1/2-inch thick) unit is one, and ingenious it is. Just put the plug in your ear, and you can hear and record a 2way conversation, clearly up the receiver.

"Pretty sly little gadget," says one version of the ad, "it fits in your pocket without a bulge."

And with just \$18.95 and a the first in your neighbor-

hood to have one.

That was in the January, 1964, edition of the Diners Club Magazine.

THIS IS only one of the many, many clever little gadgets you can use to become your own private ear. You too can eavesdrop electronically on your friends and neighbors.

These devices are easy to committees are conducting regulations prohibit record-inquirles into violations of ing any telephone conversa-privacy by the unrestricted tion without using a beeping sale of electronic snooping device. devices

Federal law on invasion of

bringing attention to some of the devices it uses

Most Government agen-cies, however, have a written policy which prohibits re-cording, transcribing, moni-toring or listening in on phone calls without advance. notification and approval.

The same holds true for

the purchase, rent, leasing or borrowing of electronic or mechanical devices.

and they are available to Government agencies which sions of the more sophisticatostensibly do not allow them. ed gear include: One advertised GSA item is a "telephone adaptor for mon- Room Probe" that "sets into itoring phone calls without

a man with a sly, devilish THE CONGRESSIONAL look on his face. He was committees concerned with holding something called a the proliferation of snooping Telephone Monitor to his ear. devices are the Senate Judi-"Hear two-way conversa- clary subcommittee on admintions without picking up re- istrative practices, headed. ceiver," said the ad for this by Sen. Edward V. Long (D-"new, private listening de- Mo.) and the special House government operations subcommittee. Long's commit-According to the ad, "more tee will open invasion of privacy hearings next Thurs-

Bernard Fensterwald, counsel for the Senate subcommittee, said that last fall a detailed, five-page queslay it against a telephone, tionnaire concerning invasion of privacy was sent to 34 Government agencies.

He said returns so far indiwithout touching or picking cate that phone monitoring, peepholes, hidden recorders, and miniature transmitters are the primary snooping practices used in the Government.

.Fensterwald said the sub-Diners Club card you can be committee has not so far concerned itself with the snooping devices used by the Government's security agenand the military.

A major concern of the newspaper ad.

mmittees is those devices • A wristwatch microcommittees is those devices which are available not only to Government agencies but also to the public at large.

come by, so easy, in fact, Communications Commission link or fountain pen microthat two congressional sub-groundings prohibit record phone which cost \$24.95 are conducting regulations prohibit record-

AND FURTHER, the teleprivacy is almost non-exist phone directory has a paraent and those state laws which exist are frequently vague and antiquated. graph which says that if you Congress passed a law in about every 15 seconds the 1934 providing stiff penalties conversation is being record-

for wiretapping, but waretapping is practiced with impunity and virtual immunity the Telephone Company for your protection," says the phone book. "Use of a recording the processing of the phone book." The protection without recorder connections of the processing of the phone book. or equipment containing a tone-warning device is contrary to the Company's tariffs and not permitted."

The devices generally available to the public frequently

The less expensive ver-

• An "International-Police wall-sees all!" according to advertisements. This item gives 172-degree-wide vision, is only as round as your finger, tucks into your pocket easily, is 1/2 inch across, telescopes out from one to 5 inches and costs \$8.95. This "little optical gem," according to its maker, is "made in Spain for use in Interpol, the international police organization."

• The International Audio-Wall Probe which you "just place against any wall." and it will "pick up sounds, voices in the next room," according to its ads. "This solid state space-age device has just been made available to the public from missile research and development," says the blurb. It weighs only 6 ounces and with it "you can detect the faintest of voices and sounds in the next room -good for knowing what the kids are doing without their realizing it."

· A miniature device which records only when it is activated by voice. You , also eliminate give-away fumcies such as the FBI, CIA bling with switches because it works "without you touch-

phone with a tiny wire that runs up under your sleeve to miniature recorder. lso to the public at large. well-dressed man also has For one thing, Federal his choice of a tie-clasp, cuff each.

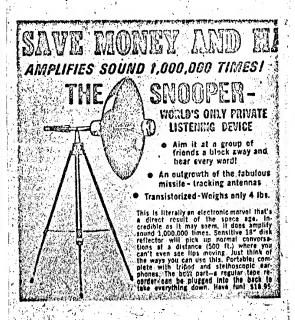
• An "executive styled" ball point pen desk set which contains a hidden, miniature microphone in its base relaxed office dictation discreet recording." This, This, by the .way, is another one of the items which can be a quired through the GS catalogue

• An attache case that is really a secret recorder "with life-like fidelity." This item "records clearly with case shut in vertical or horizontal position," and has a "button-down writing desk pad," which conceals the recorder even when the case is opened.

• The Snooper which "amplifies sound 1,000,000 times," according to its adtimes able to the public frequently vertising copy in magazines are not so sophisticated as and newspapers. This item the expensive, intricate super professional in vestigator with a tripod and, as the ads kits which run into thou say, you can "aim it at a sands of dollars, but they group of friends a block will do.

But are the highly possible.

Ameroved Guerre Services on the aven the further to the what he was taking Administration lists a host of ticated gear is available to the what he was taking such devices in its catalogue, anyone who has the money. about. Walls DO have ears.



For the Nosy Who Want Souped Up Ears



And Wide-Angle Lens
For Peeping Toms

International-Police Room Probe SETS INTO WALL-SEES ALL!!

